

The Laryngeal Hypothesis.

canonical forms?
prototypes?

In the reconstruction of the oldest archetypes of roots

and affixes of the Indo-European proto-language* (Grundsprache

is used by Russian linguists in preference to other

designations, see p. 13) the so-called "laryngeal

hypothesis", ~~xxxxxx~~ whose conception is linked

with the name of de Saussure, is ~~xx~~ widely used by many contemporary

Soviet linguists.

In 1879, ~~xxxxxx~~ establishing in his "Memoir" that the

alternations of ē; ā, ō with e (the so-called schwa

indogermanicum) are [represent] a ^{perfect} ~~entirely analogous~~ analogy to

the alternations of ei, eu, en with i, u, n, de Saussure

advanced the hypothesis (conjecture) that [this] e was

originally a non-syllabic element of ^{a kind of} certain kinds of

diphthonge^s (with e as the syllabic element), the weakening

of ^{such diphthongs,} ^{consequently} that ^{that} of which led to the disappearance of the original syllabic

disappeared ^{with} element disappeared, ^{becoming} while the non-syllabic became syllabic.

8. Phonetics

A listing of the most important phonetic characteristics ~~enumerated~~ ^{of} the phonemes will give an idea of their pronunciation in the utterance. The statements which follow are made with implicit recognition of the equivalence of certain features of child and adult articulation. The reader, for his part, will probably quite naturally make allowances for the physiological and neuromuscular differences in the articulatory mechanisms of the child and of the adult, and, though he may attempt to actually reproduce some of these articulations, he will or ought to place the burden of such reproduction on his imagination.

P is a bilabial stop. T is a frontal stop, most often dental or post-dental, occasionally alveolar and alveo-palatal as well. K is a velar stop.

<sup>relaxed and
synkinetic</sup>
<sup>relaxed and
synkinetic</sup>
^{affrication}

P and T are always unaspirated; they are more often voiced than voiceless, and their articulation varies from tense to lax. To English ears, therefore, they usually sound like b and d, but sometimes they sound vaguely like p and t. K (initial position) is occasionally aspirated, most often voiceless, and may be tense or lax. The one recorded instance of -K (final position) was aspirated; aspiration in this position remained a constant feature in subsequent sessions, with rare exceptions.

To English ears, K sounds like k or like g at different times, and sometimes like both. ^(or g) ^(in go) ^{at resonance times} K is frequently and strongly affricated; P is occasionally weakly affricated; T does not occur affricated.

Affrication under certain conditions gives an impression of harsh, unclear articulation to English ears, under other conditions goes by unnoticed. ^W [?], the glottal stop, is always voiceless, and may be tense or lax. In final position it may be weakly, inaudibly released, or it may be energetically released with a very audible aspiration, which sounds like a voiceless echo of the preceding vowel. ^{fricative} W is a bilabial slit ~~approximant~~. The lips are close together, and form a long,

* Fricative symbols are orthographic rather than phonetic.